Action-plan for making of steel plants viable

† 3013. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate any action-plan for making the major steel plants of the country viable and expansion of these plants;

(b) if so, the details of the suggestions given by the experts in this regard; and

(c) the action taken to reduce the interest burden in respect of public and private debts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OFTHE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORETRIPATHY): (a) to (c) For Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL), a public sector steel plant, a detailed proposal consisting of dispensations from the Government like setting off of the accumulated losses, capacity expansion, providing Government Guarantee for raising funds and extension of Government Guarantee for working capital loan was considered by the Government but the proposal was found not viable. The Disinvestment Commission proposed writing off of the entire accumulated losses of the company as on 31.3.1999 alongwith disinvestment of not less than 51 % of its remaining equity to a strategic buyer. No time-frame has been decided for the revival plan of RINL, which *inter-alia* includes writing off of the accumulated losses and extension of Govt. Guarantee. In terms of New Industrial Policy announced in 1991, no prior permission of the Government of India is required for expansion of steel plants in the country barring certain locational restrictions. Entrepreneurs are free to take their investment decisions. Government does not monitor the performance of private sector steel plants.

Special central assistance for tribal development in NER

3014. SHRI NABAM REBIA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have provided any amount from Special Central Assistance to NER for tribal development during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.